



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 8, 1992

Docket No. 50-271

Mr. Warren P. Murphy
Senior Vice President, Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation
580 Main Street
Bolton, Massachusetts 01740-1398

Dear Mr. Murphy:

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN
92-01, FAILURE OF THERMO-LAG 330 FIRE BARRIER SYSTEM TO MAINTAIN
CABLING IN WIDE CABLE TRAYS AND SMALL CONDUITS FREE FROM FIRE DAMAGE

By letter dated June 24, 1992, you received NRC Bulletin No. 92-01 which outlined the failure of certain Thermo-lag 330 fire barrier systems and also transmitted actions to be taken if there was certain Thermo-lag 330 fire barrier systems which are protecting safe shutdown circuits installed in your facility. By letter dated July 24, 1992, you submitted your response to NRC Bulletin No. 92-01 wherein you stated that there was one 3" conduit with Thermo-lag 330 fire wrap in a 3-hour fire barrier configuration. You stated additionally that none of the conduit applications at Vermont Yankee are specified in the Vermont Yankee Technical specifications. Indeed, there are no statements concerning fire barriers in the Vermont Yankee Technical Specifications. In the July 24, 1992 letter, you stated that the remedial action taken on finding the Thermo-lag 330 fire barrier was to institute a once per shift walkdown of the areas that contain the 3" fire wrap.

On Tuesday, August 25, 1992 and on Friday, August 28, 1992, members of your staff had a telephone conference with NRC staff (NRR, Region I and the Vermont Yankee Resident Inspector). In those telephone conferences, NRC staff stated that you are in violation of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 which requires that safe shutdown circuits, where it is not practicable to provide 20 feet of separation, must be provided with a 3-hour fire barrier or a 1-hour fire barrier if fire detectors and an automatic fire suppression system are provided in the area. In those telephone conferences, NRC staff stated that your compensatory actions were insufficient. It was stated by the NRC staff that, as a minimum, you should have a continuous fire watch in areas that do not conform to Appendix R to 10 CFR 50.

Additionally, since your Technical Specifications are silent with regard to fire barriers, you should submit a technical specification revision which covers fire barriers for staff approval and is in conformance with Appendix R to 10 CFR 50.

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

010020
9209160205 920908
PDR ADDOCK 05000271
Q PDR

LF01/10

September 8, 1992

By letter dated August 28, 1992, Supplement 1 to NRC Bulletin 92-01 was transmitted to you. In that supplement, results of recent tests of Thermo-lag 330 were listed. The results of these tests indicate a more widespread problem with Thermo-lag 330 than was previously thought. On Monday, August 31, 1992, members of your staff had a telephone conference with NRC staff. In that telephone conference, your staff indicated that as a result of Supplement 1 to NRC Bulletin 92-01, two other Thermo-lag 330 applications on 4" conduit were identified. Compensatory actions were reported as an hourly roving fire watch which was to cover the two 4" conduit applications as well as the 3" conduit applications previously identified. Television cameras are being installed for a continuous coverage of the applications in question and will be in place by approximately September 3, 1992. The NRC staff indicated that this was adequate until permanent solutions to the problem areas are found and implemented.

A reply to this letter should be forwarded within 30 days of August 28, 1992, along with the reply to Supplement 1 to NRC Bulletin 92-01.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Patrick M. Sears, Project Manager
 Project Directorate I-3
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

- Docket File
- NRC & Local PDRs
- PD I-3 Reading
- S. Varga
- J. Calvo
- W. Butler
- T. Clark
- P. Sears
- OGC
- ACRS (10)
- J. Linville, RI
- C. McCracken
- E. Kelly

OFFICE	LA:PDI-3	PM: PDI-3	D: PDI-3		
NAME	TClark	PM Sears:pd	WButler		
DATE	9/8/92	9/8/92	9/8/92	1/1	1/1

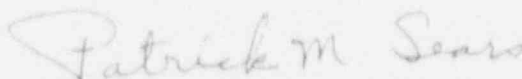
September 8, 1992

By letter dated August 28, 1992, Supplement 1 to NRC Bulletin 92-01 was transmitted to you. In that supplement, results of recent tests of Thermo-lag 330 were listed. The results of these tests indicate a more widespread problem with Thermo-lag 330 than was previously thought. On Monday, August 31, 1992, members of your staff had a telephone conference with NRC staff. In that telephone conference, your staff indicated that as a result of Supplement 1 to NRC Bulletin 92-01, two other Thermo-lag 330 applications on 4" conduit were identified. Compensatory actions were reported as an hourly roving fire watch which was to cover the two 4" conduit applications as well as the 3" conduit applications previously identified. Television cameras are being installed for a continuous coverage of the applications in question and will be in place by approximately September 3, 1992. The NRC staff indicated that this was adequate until permanent solutions to the problem areas are found and implemented.

A reply to this letter should be forwarded within 30 days of August 28, 1992, along with the reply to Supplement 1 to NRC Bulletin 92-01.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Sears, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. Warren P. Murphy, Senior Vice
President, Operations

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

cc:

Mr. J. Gary Weigand
President & Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.
R.D. 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

G. Dana Bisbee, Esq.
Office of the Attorney General
Environmental Protection Bureau
State House Annex
25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6937

Mr. Jay Thayer, Vice President
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
580 Main Street
Bolton, Massachusetts 01740-1398

Mr. James Pelletier
Vice President - Engineering
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.
P.O. Box 169, Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Regional Administrator, Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Resident Inspector
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 176
Vernon, Vermont 05354

R. K. Gad, III
Ropes & Gray
One International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624

Chief, Safety Unit
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 19th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Mr. W. P. Murphy, Sr. Vice President,
Operations
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp.
R.D. 5, Box 169
Ferry Road
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301

Mr. David Rodham, Director
Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency
400 Worcester Rd.
P.O. Box 1496
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-0317
ATTN: James Muckerheide

Mr. Richard P. Cedano, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Service
120 State Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Mr. Raymond N. McCandless
Vermont Division of Occupational
and Radiological Health
Administration Building
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Public Service Board
State of Vermont
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Vernon
Post Office Box 116
Vernon, Vermont 05354-0116

Mr. L. A. Tremblay
Senior Licensing Engineer
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power
Corporation
580 Main Street
Bolton, Massachusetts 01740-1398